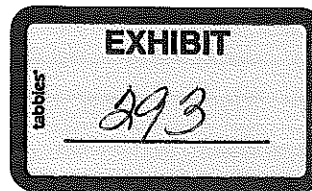


Mr. Paul E Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127



RECEIVED

FEB 03 2010

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Mr. Stacey,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Stream Flow Regulations. It is my belief that the regulations are flawed and need to be rejected as they are currently written. The proposed regulations are not consistent with the initial mandate handed down from the legislature in that they will impose broad sweeping regulation over all streams and rivers in the state, as well as the consumers who have been guaranteed access to the water, without achieving the goal of protecting the streams and rivers that may be threatened by the withdrawal of water from their respective watersheds.

This violates the grandfathered status that was granted to the registered diversions under the water diversion permitting regulations. The registered diversions were developed by the DEP and are based on the maximum potential daily withdrawal. These figures do not represent the actual amount of water being diverted or the nature of the consumption. Before the registrations are revoked I feel that DEP has an obligation to demonstrate that the actual consumption poses a significant threat to the watershed and its watercourses, and their impact clearly identified.

The widespread scale of the regulations is not consistent with the scope of the problem areas that the original mandate was trying to protect. The number of streams and rivers that are at risk is extremely small, and there are a limited number of diversions that threaten the flow of water in these watercourses. The proposed regulations ignore this fact and threaten to impose restrictions on all diversions regardless of their location or potential impact on stream flow.

The goals of the original mandate would be much more effectively addressed if the watercourses were classified first. This would identify those streams and rivers in jeopardy, along with the specific diversions that present the greatest threat to their condition. This approach reduces the scale of the project that would be manageable for the existing staff levels at the DEP and would ensure that the highest priority watersheds are evaluated first.

In addition to the cost incurred by the DEP to implement and enforce these regulations, the cost of compliance would affect residents and small business throughout the state. While the largest water consumers would have the resources to achieve compliance, the long-term cost of monitoring and increased operational expenses would be passed on to consumers. Very few small businesses consume enough water to have a detrimental impact on the watersheds in which they operate, but would all incur significant costs associated with permitting and compliance. I am certain that the legislature did not intend to have the watercourses of the state protected at the expense of small business and the families that depend on them for income and benefits. I believe a thorough cost-benefit analysis should be completed that considers the impact of these costs on the residents of the State of Connecticut and the economy in general.

I encourage the committee to reject the proposed stream flow regulations in favor of a more reasonable, manageable, and effective approach to protecting Connecticut's streams and rivers, and the value they contribute to the quality of life in the region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Gorman".

Peter J. Gorman
Golf Course Superintendent
Suffield Country Club